



Security Council

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LETTER DATED 19 MARCH 1993 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The Prime Minister of France telephoned me very early this morning to convey his deep concern over the situation developing in Eastern Bosnia and Herzegovina. The UNPROFOR commander, who is in Kiseljak to oversee personally the relief operation to Srebrenica has been reporting continuing obstruction by regular and irregular Serb forces of relief efforts.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees also had reported that UNHCR's relief efforts were blocked despite intensive and persistent negotiations with the political and military leadership of the Bosnian Serbs and the highest levels of the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), including personal assurances from Dr. Karadzic and Mr. Milosevic.

The High Commissioner further reports that thousands of people are seeking refuge in Srebrenica from surrounding areas which are being systematically attacked and occupied by Serb forces, and that 30 or 40 persons are dying daily from military action, starvation, exposure to cold or lack of medical treatment.

The only positive feature in this appalling situation is a report from the UNPROFOR Force Commander a short while ago that last night six United States aircraft dropped 32 tons of food and 1 1/2 tons of medical supplies in the area, and that tomorrow air-drops by another nine aircraft are planned. He also has just reported that at about mid-day New York time the land convoy was able to enter Srebrenica.

Despite these positive developments, it is becoming starkly evident that a massive humanitarian tragedy may be unfolding in Eastern Bosnia and Herzegovina, as a result of defiance by Serb elements of the resolutions of the Security Council. I shall be grateful if you would bring these considerations to the attention of the members of the Council. I shall, of course, keep you informed of further developments.

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI
